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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: At times of conflict we pray for peace. In times of violence, as we long for serenity, we pray for victims and the conversion of perpetrators.

At times of anger and hatred we search for signs of charity and cling in respect for each other and from each other. At times of senseless acts, we pray for wisdom that will give meaning and define common purpose.

O gracious God, shape us into a unified force that sees our battle as truly spiritual. Give us strength to fight for what is right no matter the risk.

Because we rely upon Your grace, we will give Your Holy Name the honor, the power and the glory both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING ACT

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, today is a great day for small businesses in the United States. The small Business Lending Act we are voting on today will give \$12 billion in tax relief to small businesses and increase access to capital through community banks.

These \$12 billion in tax cuts, including a 100 percent exclusion of capital gains tax on small business investments, saves entrepreneurs money that they can put right back into their businesses. This legislation creates a \$30 billion small business lending fund to help community banks, not Wall Street banks, lend to our small businesses.

Access to capital is the biggest concern facing our small businesses today. That's why we included my plan to increase the cap on Small Business Administration express loans from \$350,000 to \$1 million.

More capital for business means that they can expand and create new jobs. Helping businesses grow is essential to our economic recovery and getting people back to work. As a small business owner, I am proud to support this plan to provide tax relief to businesses and give them access to capital they need.

HEALTH CARE TAX INCREASE

(Mr. TURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, last March I voted against ObamaCare, the government takeover of health care, in part because it imposed over half a trillion dollars of additional taxes, fees, and costs on an already struggling U.S. economy. Throughout the year-long debate, small business owners in my district and across the country expressed

concerns that the bill would increase their health care-related costs.

While back in my district this August, I encountered businesses already preparing to face the consequences of the over 2,000-page health care bill. Ferno-Washington, Inc., is an emergency and medical equipment manufacturing company that is based in Wilmington, Ohio, in my district. The company is preparing for the health care bill's new 2.3 percent excise tax on the sale of medical devices.

The business leaders at Ferno estimate the cost of the tax puts at risk 23 jobs. Also, they are concerned that this tax will reduce their ability to fund research and development to produce cutting-edge advanced products.

In Clinton County, the unemployment rate hovers around 17 percent. We cannot afford the impact of ObamaCare's tax increases upon businesses like Ferno. We need to replace ObamaCare.

AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING CRISIS

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, ADAPs, are experiencing a funding crisis. Thousands of our most vulnerable citizens are counting on Congress to ensure that they have access to the medications they need to stay alive. To make matters worse, the Census Bureau reports that the number of uninsured Americans rose sharply last year to an all-time high of 50.7 million due to the difficult economy.

It is projected that tens of thousands more individuals will soon require the vital services that State ADAPs provide to low income, uninsured and underinsured individuals living with

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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